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The next largest soil type represented in Siaton is the Isabela series of which two small enclaves of Isabela clay are located near Barrios Caticugan and Giliga-on. Because of the soil's heavy texture, both external and internal drainage are poor; this gives the soil its bluish-black color. Isabela clay, the most important soil type in this series, is also found in Isabela, Binalbagan, Kabankalan, and San Carlos, Negros Occidental. "One drawback... [of this soil type] ... [312] is its poor drainage condition. Sugar cane fields are provided with drainage canals at regular intervals to facilitate the drawing out of excess water."[40]

In Negros Occidental, where this clay soil appears, corn is often planted after the rice harvest, which is the reverse of the practice in Caticugan. While sugar cane and lowland rice are the two important crops raised on this soil, corn and coconuts also are grown as minor crops. The soil survey report on Negros Oriental states: "This series [Isabela] as defined in Siaton area [including Barrio Caticugan] is dissected by the destructive Siaton River. It is therefore to be expected that this series is of alluvial formation arising from the deposition of secondary soil-building material brought down by the flow of the Siaton River during the rainy season."

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[40]Alicante and others, op. cit., pp.53-4.

States, Italy, Spain, Iran, and southeast Asia. "About one hundred of the older varieties and four or more of the recent introductions are grown commercially [in the Philippines]."[93] There are four major categories of rice in the Philippines: irrigated lowland; non-irrigated lowland; palagad ("dry season rice"); and upland rice.[94] In Negros 59 per cent of the rice land is occupied by either irrigated or non-irrigated lowland rice.

Most of Negros' irrigated rice land, about 7,000 acres, is located near the coast, normally on river deltas where the waters are easily diverted. Exceptions include the Canlaon plateau where, at an elevation of nearly 1,000 feet, about 2,500 acres of rice land are irrigated by streams which originate on nearby volcanic peaks. Most of the lowland non-irrigated rice land is found along the flood plains. These are areas which cannot be irrigated due to lack of capital or technical difficulty.

Lowland rice usually is planted in Negros between June and August, although the dates vary slightly due to early or late start of the rainy season.[95] Non-irrigated

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[93] Uichanco and Sacay, op. cit., p.2.

[94] Palagad is the second rice crop a farmer tries to raise in one year from a usually, but not necessarily always, irrigated paddy. Cultivation practices have created two subtypes of upland rice agriculture: one where the fields are plowed for planting and the other where the rice is planted with a dibble stick.

[95] Hainsworth and Moyer, op. cit., p.53. These months appear to be the general planting and harvesting dates for rice in the Visayan Islands.

The northwest part of Caticugan is still quite boggy. Along the base of the bluff runs a shallow stream which eventually joins the Caticugan Creek. To the west is the low bluff of Caticugan; Lucas Ege, founder of Caticugan, built canals here to drain the many springs. The hills are covered with bamboo groves, shrubs, and some coconuts. Taking the path up the bluff one emerges at Upper Naga. To the north a hill undulates down to a grassy shelf on which stand the houses of Upper Naga. Following the crest of the bluff southward one comes to the main settlement of Naga where a small bamboo school is located. The nearest house has several jars of bright-colored candies in the window sill to attract the few pennies of the children. To the west is Mantuyop River, a rockier and shallower stream than the Siaton River. Across the Mantuyop River the hills are covered with low-growing trees and shrubs.

If the opposite direction had been taken on leaving Caticugan one would have ascended the small plateau of Dangola, rocky, grass-covered and with scattered fields. The southwestern part of Dangola is covered with grass and large wallow holes where carabaos roll happily in thick mud. To the northwest is the level riverine plain of Sandolot with fenced fields and residences. Descending toward the east from Dangola one arrives at Talo-ot, separated from Caticugan

20: Hart E-5 (195.) 1954 OA1 Philippines
Central Bisayan OA14

Plate XIX

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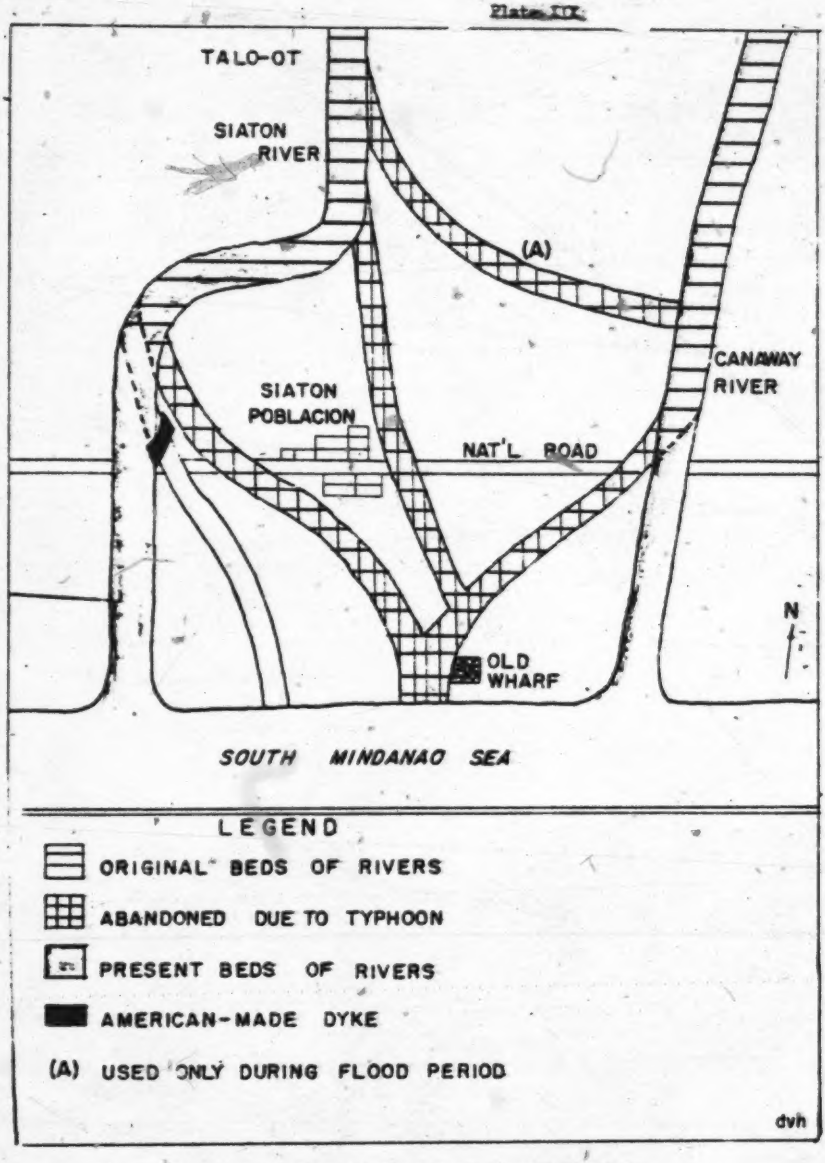

SIATON - CANAWAY RIVER PATTERNS

P. 156

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Present day Barrio Caticugan's land was later purchased by Father Manuel Cabriada on Romero's transfer to Dumaguete. Later Cabriada was sent as the first missionary to Tolong. In 1872 Cabriada returned to Siaton. When Julio Adan replaced Cabriada he purchased the land and later sold it to Lucas Ege for fifteen dollars. Lucas Ege lived to be quite old; he died around 1898, according to his grandson. While the exact date is unknown, Ege's development of Caticugan must have begun after 1872 and before 1898. I estimate Ege began to drain the land and settle it with his relatives about 1885.

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Before its purchase by Ege, the pocket-size plain of Caticugan was a bog. Little of the land could be cultivated and planted with rice. The ground was so boggy that "carabaos could not walk on most of the land" and "a lighted cigar dropped on the earth would ignite it. The ground would burn, without smoke, just like ashes." Ege's friends warned him that the land was haunted for they saw mysterious torches there at night, the eerie handiwork of the encangtos (unseen spirits). Lucas Ege, however, purchased the land and began to build a series of drainage canals in order to increase the cultivable area.

[784]

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Before the 1896 Siaton River flood, the river ran at the base of the Dangola bluff and turned southward along the present course of Caticugan Creek. After this flood, the Siaton changed its course to its present bed.

end of the last war Negros Oriental has imported about 40 per cent of the corn consumed from Mindanao.[35] 243 311

Barrio Caticugan is unique in Siaton municipality since sections of corn land and paddies can be irrigated. Some barriofolk grow one, and often two, crops of corn in their paddies before the latter are transplanted. Land devoted to irrigated corn in Barrio Caticugan and the division between the fields planted both with rice and corn and solely corn are shown in Plate XXIII.[1] This limit is imposed by the land's elevation that makes gravity flow irrigation impossible farther east.

Barrio Caticugan's canals were built originally not as an irrigation system but to drain the boggy land so it could be farmed. In fact, the land west of the main path of Barrio Caticugan was so boggy that no corn was planted here until forty or fifty years ago. Many old residents of Barrio Caticugan remember when only rice was raised in the barrio. The canals were said to have been much deeper in the past; now they are only several feet deep. In some parts of Barrio Caticugan, such as the northwestern end, the canals are silting up and the land is becoming increasingly boggy. For this 243 312

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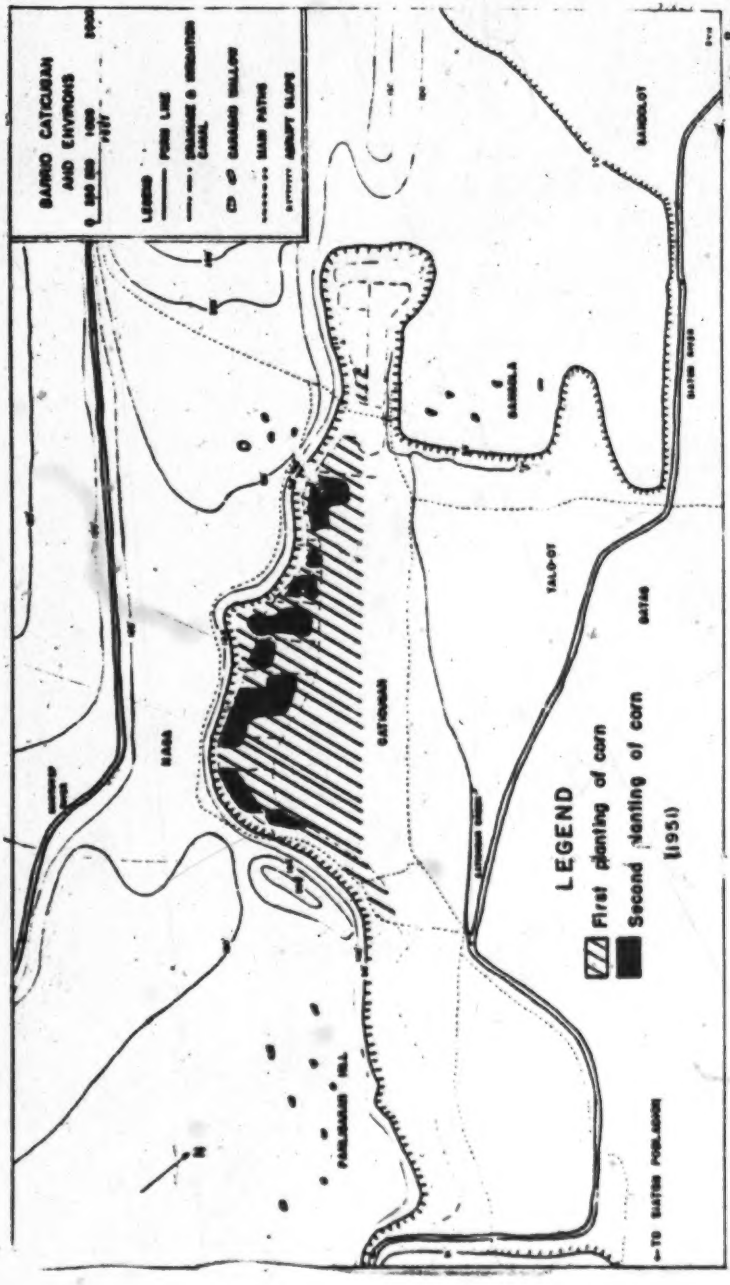
35 "Production Date by Municipalities: Crop Year from July 1, 1952 to June 30, 1953." Provincial Agricultural Office, Dumaguete, Negros Oriental, 1953. Typescript. Vide "Oriental Negros Expects Corn Increase," Philippines Free Press, XLIII, No. 30 (July 26, 1952), p. 22. This unsigned article stated that in 1952 the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources estimated that only 17 per cent of the corn consumed in the province would be imported from Mindanao. An expected 23 per cent increase in the corn harvests because of increased use of fertilizers was anticipated.

1 [See p. 325, cat. 243 or 311 -- Analyst]


BARRIO CATICUBAN AND ENVIRONS
LEGEND
LAND USE (IRRIGATED CORN)
LEGEND
First planting of corn
Second planting of corn (1951)
PLATE XXIII
243
3//
3/2

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312

reason little corn is planted here and that which is sowed does not grow well.

There are no cooperative efforts to maintain the canals. Each farmer cares for the canals which run by or through his paddy. The distribution of the water is done without rancor because there is sufficient water for all. During my residence some older men in Barrio Caticugan talked about digging a new canal to irrigate more land. The owner of the spring that the proposed canal was to tap, however, requested ten gantas of shelled corn annually from every farmer through whose field the canal would pass. This price was considered excessive and the canal project was dropped. There was also talk about purchasing a second-hand pump to bring water from the Siaton River to Barrio Caticugan's fields. The largest landowner in Barrio Caticugan had the capital to purchase the pump but the project had not passed the discussion stage in 1953.[36]

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By irrigating some of their paddies the barriofolk can plant corn without waiting for the southwest monsoon. In 1951 the first irrigated paddy corn in Caticugan was planted in March, continuing into April. The sowing occurred immediately after the rice harvest so these

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[36] In 1952 the Mutual Security Agency allocated three million dollars for the purchase of irrigation pumps in the Philippines. James A. Storer, "Philippine Economic Progress," Far Eastern Survey, XXII, No. 8, (July, 1953) pp. 91-2. Ortigas states that both the Canaway and Sacsac rivers in Siaton were under consideration as possible irrigation sources. Ortigas, op. cit., p. 140.